additional Civil Surgeon on Rs. 200—350 was appointed. From the reply to my question, it is clear that the appointment was for the X-Ray department. Let us see where our X-Ray stands to-day. Have the apparatus reached India? I am informed that they are not. (I am open to correction, if my information is wrong). Where is our X-Ray building? I say, it is in the budget for the next year. We do not know, at this stage, how long we are to wait for the commencement of the practical working of the X-Ray. One Sub-assistant Surgon is on study-leave for X-Ray training at Madras. Why this leave at this juncture? Is it only to draw the leave allowance?

The appointment of the X-Ray Expert, long before the inception of the whole scheme, on a fat salary, to say the least, is a waste of public money.

The reply to my supplementary question clearly showed that the X-Ray Expert is no expert in eye-diseases. An Assistant Surgeon, with an allowance, if necessary, would have served the purpose.

This hole-and-corner-way of appointment will bring discontent of the services, and, in the long run, the satisfactory working of the department, I am sure, will suffer to a great extent.

I do not know how far such methods are adopted in other departments. If so, it is high time to remedy such a state of things.

The shifting of the X-Ray installation to Trichur will be more useful to the people of the State.

In commenting upon this appointment, I am actuated by a genuine and earnest desire to place before the Government and this Council the imperative necessity to go into the question of the general services and the need for retrenchment in all departments. I hope, the Government will, ere long, take steps to appoint a committee of official and non-official members to go into the whole question and suggest ways and means to that end.

Irrigation.—Sir, coming as I do from the Chittur Taluk, where my *tarawad* owns large landed properties, I can claim to speak with some authority on the irrigation system that obtains there.

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I shall first deal with the system as it is and try to point out its defects.

There are four anicuts on the Chittur river, namely, at Mulattara, Kunnankattupati, Temparamatakku and Nurnee. All the four of them are now under State management. The Mulattara anicut was constructed by the Sirkar itself; the other three were acquired by the State from their respective owners. As regards the latter three anicuts, I may say that they were well-managed under private ownership, giving entire satisfaction to the cultivators. There were no complaints then, worth mentioning, to my knowledge.

Regarding the Mulattara anicut, I know that, from the very beginning, there were constant complaints by the cultivators, as regards the sufficiency of the supply. Complaints of a similar character are now heard of in regard to the other three also.

The insufficiency of the supply is caused, firstly, by want of improvements of the existing anicuts and the canals; secondly, by insufficient attention to the repairs.

(a) **Improvement :**—The systems, now in existence, have to be improved a good deal. The capacity, for storage, of the anicuts has to be increased; the existing canals have to be widened and deepened and new canals have to be made. Even if the capacity of the existing systems is increased, the supply would not be adequate to meet the increasing demands. New reservoirs have to be constructed, in the shape of *eries* and tanks, in various places. In short, all the necessary measures for increasing the supply, have to be well-considered and adopted.

Under the head of Improvements, I have to place another factor, which works great hardship among some of the tenants. Portions of the existing canals run through private lands, whose owners, either divert the water from selfish motives or do not allow water to be taken through their lands at all. An improvement in this direction, by acquiring sites for canals and *chals* wherever necessary, is essential, for ensuring a fair distribution of the supply that is now available.

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(b). **Repairs:**—I need not specially mention that canals and *chals* get naturally silted up every year, and that, every year, the silt must be removed for the free flow of water through them. I regret that I have to mention that repairs are not quite satisfactory.. The velocity with which the water flows through the canals is greatly reduced for want of proper and timely removal of the silt. Consequently, water takes longer time to reach the tail end, causing great hardship to the cultivators. That there is urgent necessity for repairs and improvements is clear from the Chief Engineer's report, this year, regarding the Mulattara system, which is 20 miles in length. He says that "the work urgently required is the improvement of the canal and the bunds for the first ten miles .. ..with an estimated expense of Rs. 50,000.". I may add that repairs, in the other systems of canals also, are required, equally urgently.

In conclusion, I have to place before this Council that the Chittur Taluk, which is mainly, if not solely, agricultural, depends entirely for its prosperity on this irrigation system. There is no question which affects them more vitally than this It is not a question that could be shelved into the background on the usual plea of want of funds. There is great scope for further reclamation. Make the irrigation system efficient; then people are sure to reclaim more lands, which would mean increase of revenue to the State. The Sirkar has only to invest the capital for initial expenses for which people would only be too glad to pay interest by way of revenue. I have only to add that this question which affects the existence and well-being of the people of a whole Taluk, whose prosperity must be the pride of any Government, deserves the closest attention of this Council and the Sirkar.

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA (*Landlords*).

Sir, On behalf of my constituents, permit me also, first, to congratulate you on your elevation to the exalted office of Diwan, when you were fast approaching the close of a long and distinguished career in the service of the State. This is, as it ought to be. For three and a half decades, from the days of Diwan Mr. Tiruvenkitachariar down to your own, the *personnel* of administration in Cochin was alien; every foreign Diwan

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was trying to transplant all that he saw in British India, without fully considering whether this soil was congenial for the growth of the new plant. It is of the happiest augury for the new era in Cochin, which has just begun, that there is, at the head of the Government, a Diwan, who was born and brought up in the State and who has lived amongst its people, and who, when he lays down the reins of office, must share with his fellow-countymen, the consequences of his policy and proceedings. We confidently hope that a noble Judge will become a successful statesman, by setting an example of duty, wisdom, morality and purity, all round.

The questions and resolutions, we have addressed, whether disallowed or admitted, indicate the trend of public feeling on the subject matter, they cover. As critics of the Government, we shall always be vigilant in watching its proceedings with a view to effect administrative purity and financial equ librium. In the Government of Cochin, which is to be conducted hereafter with the co-operation of the people, we would aim at securing equality of opportunity to all and a living force to public opinion.

Turning, now, to the financial situation, we find presented to us a deficit budget. What is this deficit due to? I, for one, am fully persuaded that it is the outcome of long years of extravagance and thoughtless expenditure. Progress of the State was identified in the past with departmental reorganisations, increase in the number and pay of officers and increase of revenue at the expense of the tax-payer. There is, therefore, an abnormal increase in establishment and allowances. The white elephant of Tramway has fallen into the pit and is caught. By the separation of Tramway from Forests in the budget, our resourceful and watchful Conservator wants to drive the elephant to the plains so that his forests may be free. We, as representatives of the people, have, if necessary, to kill it so that our crops of revenue may not be destroyed. If we drive it back to the forests, it will be found from the figures in the budget that, to get a profit of Rs. 12,981 in 1099, a large portion of our forests had to be cleared of its valuable timber; and there is no interest for the capital outlay.

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There is no mark of the scientific and economic spirit in the Industrial Department. The Potteries and Tanneries are striking instances of wreckless gambling in finance. Then, again, in the Agricultural Department —a department where we should expect the most scientific economy—we find incredible loss. I have merely to call the attention of the Council to the receipts and expenditure in the Cocoanut Experimental Station and also in the Central Farm. I am aware that the department is presided over by an expert officer of undoubted integrity and devoted zeal. However, an enquiry into the working of the department, under present conditions, can no longer be delayed. My questions and motions should give the officers concerned an opportunity of explaining the position.

I would next invite the attention of the Council to the Education Department. To my mind, it seems that the scheme of a First Grade College for Cochin was undertaken without due appreciation of our financial resources or any serious consideration of the question how far the Government should incur the responsibility for higher education. If a real desire for higher education exists among the people, the policy of the Government ought to be to increasingly transfer that responsibility to private agency, which, we know, are not lacking in and around the State. In the field of Primary education, which is among the legitimate functions of the Government, there is almost unlimited room for advance and improvement Extension of Primary education and Vocational training are apt to play an important part in the economic progress and prosperity of the State. On the other hand, even as matters now stand, the number of graduates who are not able to get a living wage—not to speak of a decent competence—is innumerable. What is the use of increasing this educational wastage?

As we survey the budget, there is hardly any department which has not developed tendencies of extravagance. The economic conditions of the people of Cochin are generally discouraging. Except our Christian brothren, who have been able to make some progress against heavy odds, all others are gradually sinking.

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The result is, Cochin has all the appearance of affluence, but none of its elements.

In conclusion, I fully endorse Mr. Achyuta Menon's masterful survey of our finances and beg to add my conviction that the cutting down of useless and unnecessary expenditure is absolutely vital to the welfare of the State. In a word, the Government must endeavour to work out its salvation within the limits of sound economic laws.

Mr. POULO MAMPILLI (*Narakkal*).

Mr President, Though it is a pity that the very first budget presented to the Council should be a deficit one, yet, as a member of the Council, I am glad that the budget is a deficit one, because it will give us, members, some chance to use the pruning knife on the very first occasion. At the very outset, I may say that I do not believe that the figures set out by the Finance Member are all going to be true to his anticipations. We have only to study the figures anticipated and realised in previous budgets to be sceptical of the present figures. However, one thing is clear that we are weaker on the income side than we were. Abkari, Ganja, Opium and Tobacco show decline and this decline in revenue is a warning to the Government to try to set the finances in order. The Finance Member states that the fall of the shop rentals in the Excise Department is a sign that the principle of maximum of revenue with a minimum of consumption is showing its practical result. I beg to differ. Consumption of liquor is not on the decrease but on the increase. The loss in rental is due to the prevailing scarcity of money; and it is also due to illicit manufacture and sale of arrack and toddy, which is on the increase, in spite of the vigilance of the Excise Department.

In spite of the difficulty of making the budget balance, I see that, in all departments, travelling allowance figures are unusually high. Most of these amounts find their way into the hands of the various Heads of Departments. These officers are getting fat salaries, and we have to pay double first class and double second class. There is no doubt that all officials do make some tangible gain out of this big item. I am

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of opinion, and I am glad, it is shared by several other members of the Council, that they should be given only one and a half first, or second, class Railway charges; it is a pity that, in these difficult days, the Government did not think of cutting down their allowances. I would go much further. In these days of difficulty, I would have expected the Government to reduce the high pay now given, as was done in Mysore, and abolish unnecessary posts.

We find from the budget that the Education Department has not had the pruning knife applied to it. A good deal of saving can be effected in this department. Primary Education is a duty of the State; not so Secondary, and Collegiate, Education which are only luxuries, which, if there is money, the State may afford to give. As is remarked by the Finance Member, educational expenditure is growing out of bounds. Before we adopt the suggestions of the Finance Member, it is our duty to find out whether economy cannot be effected. There are several High Schools which can be safely abolished or handed over to private agencies. There are many supernumerary teachers. It is high time that the department should set about this work without delay. While I plead for retrenchment in the department, I do wish that Primary Education will be made free. The Government gets but a small income from this source and it may be given up, even though the deficit will increase on that account.

The Medical Department of the State is too heavy and over-manned. There are many men in the department who have very little work. Whatever experts may say, this is a fact. One has only to look into the local General Hospital or the Civil Hospital at Trichur, one morning, to realise the truth of my statement. Unnecessary hands have been entertained on most flimsy grounds. While the department is thus, in respect of its personnel, I find that the medicine supply is very limited. Several Mofussil institutions have medicines for six months only. Rs. 10,000 have been provided for an X-Ray apparatus. Of course, to provide work for the X-Ray Expert, it is a necessity; but, in the interest of the people and in view of our want of funds,

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this Rs. 10,000 may be safely omitted. I would not grudge any money spent for the poor, but I must protest against the waste of Government money in paying idle hands or spending money to provide works for these gentlemen.

It is some consolation to the members of the Council to note the reductions of the grant to the towns which have been pampered all along. But the Mattancherry Municipality is to be paid a big sum for electric lighting. If the people there want electric light, the Municipality must find money. It is unjust to spend the general tax-payers' money for the benefit of Mattancherry. The amount provided for rural sanitation is most negligible. It is stated that Panchayats are given a lot. The amounts allotted to these institutions is disgracefully low. I am afraid, the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats does not care for his second love as he cares for the first. If the Government thinks that, because the Panchayats are given a few thousand rupees, the Sanitary Department has little work; and if the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer thinks so, I can only say that neither the Government nor the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer knows the true state of the villages. We, from the villages, justly demand that we should be treated justly and fairly by the Government and not treated as other peoples' children.

The Public Works Department is to do, in the next year, only a less amount of work on communications than in the current year. This is not satisfactory. There is no provision made to protect the sea-coast villages from the ravages of the sea. There is no sign yet that Mr. Bhore's scheme of agricultural improvements is to be taken up at all. It is a scheme that will benefit the people, though it will cost money. "Nothing venture, nothing have" is not a policy to be adopted by a progressive Government that desires the all-round improvement of the people.

The Forest-Tramway is shown as a distinct item in the Budget. It will be more correct to club Forests and the Tramway, which serves that department, together. In whatever way we may view this, it is clear that we are to spend more than 1¾ lakhs of rupees on the Tram-

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way. The exclusive purpose of the Tramway is to bring down timber. But if the timber that is brought down does not fetch even the cost of transport, the sooner the bringing down of such timber be stopped the better. The Tramway, if it cannot be made to give a better return, must be scrapped, however sorry we may be. There is no use of spending good money to keep alive a work that is, year by year, costing the Government much money to keep up.

There is no provision made to improve the lot of the poor, hard-worked Village officials. There is just discontent amongst these poor officials. They have to slave for all Government departments and they have been repeatedly appealing to the Government for a little consideration. I thought that the Head of the Revenue Department, who makes these people work so hard, would have done something for them. However anxious we may be to balance the budget, we should not forget the just grievances of a hard-working set of officials. I plead for them, because they are a discontented lot; and this mentality of theirs is causing the people a lot of trouble.

Before I conclude, let me express my disappointment that the Government has not thought of tapping new sources of income in order that the growing needs of an enlightened Government may be met. There are several classes of people who contribute nothing to the general revenues of the State. Other Governments have already taken steps to make these people contribute their share. I hope that the Government will seriously think of introducing income-tax on non-agricultural institutions.

From a perusal of the Budget and the Statement, I am convinced that the budget would have been better than now, making provision for essential expenditure in all the departments, including even that of Agriculture—the existence of which is unknown to the vast majority of the people, owing to the great work it is doing for them—, if the pruning knife had been applied, where it ought to have been applied and if the Government had taken steps to check the waste that is going under several heads. As it is, the budget provides very little money for the material improvement of the people; but

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all provisions for the contentment of the superior officials have been made. I submit that this is not the proper way of framing a budget; the interest of people should prevail over the comfort and emoluments of officials.

The view put forward by one of my colleagues, that we should not use current revenue on big reproductive works like the Harbour, is quite correct. The spending of current revenue on such schemes not only affects the ordinary expenditure on other necessary items but, as years go on and our income grows less, we will find it most difficult to meet this extra expenditure. The sooner we go in for borrowed capital for such works the better for the Government and the people.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

Sir—Though I took great trouble to study carefully the budget estimate for the year 1101 M. E., I must admit, being quite new to the subject, that I do not feel competent to pronounce any opinion upon most of the items in the estimate. This being the first session of the Cochin Legislative Council ever since it was inaugurated, the members of this House—I refer to the non-official members—are quite new to a subject of this kind and I must warn the Government, at the very outset, not to expect much of a constructive programme from them, at least during this first session; but they have another, equally important, function to perform, that of offering a destructive criticism; and I shall do my share of it.

Agriculture and Panchayats—I must be pardoned, if I am a bit hard upon the system of administration of this department as it is at present carried on. Administered on right lines, there is perhaps no department which can benefit the public to the same extent as the Department of Agriculture, but the general opinion now appears to be that the Agricultural Department is the one "that has the least benefitted the State or the subjects". Again, "The costly white elephant at Ollukkara, the Central Farm with all the paraphernalia that surrounds it, is more or less a drain on the State Treasury". For "Agriculture Pro-

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